F.W.S.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
STEWART L. UDALL, SECRETARY
Fish and Wildlife Service, Clarence F. Pautzke, Commissioner
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Donald L. McKernan, Director

Market News Leaflet 83

Washington 25, D.C. July 1963

OCT 21 1963
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON JAPAN'S LANDINGS OF FISH AND AQUATIC PRODUCTS, 1961-1962

Japan's fishing industry is not only one of the most highly developed, but it is the largest in the world today. In addition to occupying an important position in Japan's economy in terms of monetary income, this industry provides the people of Japan with about 68.6 percent of their meat-like protein.

In 1962, landings of fish and aquatic products, exclusive of whaling, reached an all-time high of 6,864,000 metric tons, an increase of 154,000 metric tons (2.3 percent) over the previous year's record catch of 6,710,000 metric tons. For the past several years the annual increase has ranged from 6 to 8 percent.

Record catches in 1961 and 1962 were attributed to (1) development of new fishing grounds in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, (2) increased fishing effort (expansion of fishing fleet), and (3) increased fishing efficiency of newly constructed vessels.

The fisheries of Japan are classified into six broad categories. These are: (1) pelagic or distant water fishery, (2) domestic marine, (3) culture in the shallow seas, (4) inland water fishery, (5) fish culture in inland waters, and (6) whaling. Of the 1962 catch, production by these fisheries were as follows: 1,713,000 metric tons - distant water fishery; 4,676,000 metric tons - domestic marine

---

Issued by Branch of Market News, Division of Resource Development, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

1/ Information supplied by United States Embassy, Tokyo, Japan.

fishery; 362,000 metric tons - culture in shallow seas; 84,000 metric tons - inland water fishery and 20,000 metric tons fish culture in inland waters.

Japan's major distant water fisheries include: (1) mothership otter trawl fishery (North Pacific); (2) otter trawl fisheries (Atlantic and Pacific oceans off Australia); (3) South China Sea otter trawl fishery; (4) mothership large trawl fishery (north Pacific); (5) carrier type trawl fishery (north Pacific); (6) mothership large trawl fishery (South China Sea); (7) large trawl fishery, excluding mothership type, operation (South China Sea); (8) mothership salmon fishery; (9) mothership crab fishery; (10) tuna longline fishery based at overseas ports; (11) mothership tuna longline fishery (Pacific and Atlantic oceans); (12) tuna longline fishery (Atlantic) and (13) pearl shell fishing in Arafura Sea (Australia).

Japanese distant water fishing has expanded rapidly in recent years. In 1956, for example, landings totalled 165,000 metric tons, accounting for 3.5 percent of Japan's total catch compared with 25 percent of the total catch in 1962. The 1962 landings were, however, 3.5 percent below the 1961 level of 1,774,000 metric tons. The decline in catch is attributed to decreased landings in the following fisheries: mothership bottom fishery (Bering Sea) 112,000 metric tons (18%); mothership salmon fishery 9,000 metric tons (17%); and tuna longline fishery (Atlantic) 18,000 metric tons (27%). Despite the gains in the otter trawl fishery (excluding Bering Sea) 19,000 metric tons (58%); carrier type trawling (north Pacific) 8,000 metric tons (50%); mothership crab fishery 4,000 metric tons (19%); tuna longline fishery based at overseas ports 8,000 metric tons (47%); and mothership tuna longline fishery in Pacific and Indian oceans 31,000 metric tons (94%), they were not of sufficient magnitude to offset declines in production in other distant water fisheries.

Domestic Marine Fisheries

In 1962, Japan's domestic fisheries output totalled 4,676,000 metric tons compared with 4,502,000 metric tons in 1961, an increase of 174,000 metric tons or 3.7%. Gains were recorded for the following

major fisheries: (1) tuna longline fishery based in Japan, 35,000 metric tons (10%); (2) skipjack pole and line fishery, 21,000 metric tons (12%); (3) purse seine fishery, 13,000 metric tons (1%); (4) saury stick-held dip net fishery, 14,000 metric tons (3%); (5) Pacific mackerel pole and line fishery, 23,000 metric tons (15%); (6) squid angling, 156,000 metric tons (41%); and (7) beach and boat seine fishery, 11,000 metric tons (16%). Significant declines were reported in the otter trawl fishery west of 130 degrees East Longitude, 45,000 metric tons (12%); trawl fishery east of 130 degrees East Longitude, 19,000 (3%); salmon drift gill net fishery, 37,000 metric tons (43%); large set net fishery, 22,000 metric tons (15%); and other fisheries, 56,000 metric tons (4%).

Landings of squid in 1962 totalled 612,000 metric tons, of which 533,000 metric tons were caught by angling and the remainder taken by purse seine and beach seine as incidental catch in landings of other fish. Squid production was 34% above 1961 landings.

The landings of squid in 1962 was the largest on record since 1953. Factors ascribing to increased production were the expansion of the squid fleet by larger type fishing vessels, improvement in fishing methods and gear and additional cold storage facilities in Hokkaido.

The domestic marine fishery includes the collection of shellfish and seaweed. The combined production of these fisheries totalled 529,000 metric tons compared with an output of 460,000 metric tons in 1961, an increase of 69,000 metric tons or 15 percent.

Culture in Shallow Seas

In the shallow sea areas of Japan several types of aquatic culture are practiced, the four most important ones being that of laver, oysters, pearls and yellowtail. Production in the shallow sea areas in 1962 totalled 360,000 metric tons, an increase of 12 percent over the previous year.

Laver, or nori, a food peculiar to Japan is made of several species of red algae artificially grown and prepared into thin sheets

and dried. This seaweed is inseparable from the diet of the Japanese people. In 1962 production of laver totalled 154,000 metric tons. This was an increase of 17,000 metric tons (5%) above the 1961 yield.

Oyster culture is an important industry in Japan, not only in the production of edible oysters but for raising seed oysters for export. In 1962, approximately 203,000 metric tons of oysters were produced, which was 31,000 metric tons (18%) above last year's landings.

Pearl culture is one of the most unique industries in Japan. The reason is that (1) unlike other culture activities which produce food, the final product is used as jewelry, (2) in pearl culture surgery-like techniques are practiced in which spherical nuclei made of mussel shells are inserted in the incision which acts as an irritant to produce the pearl, (3) pearl oysters are transferred to areas of favorable water temperatures during the winter season and returned to the original growing areas during the spring, summer and fall months.

In 1962, 68 tons of pearls were produced, a decrease of 12 tons (15%) below the output in 1961. The decrease was caused by delaying the period of take from early fall months to December in order to produce a better quality pearl.

Yellowtail culture in 1962, although small compared to production in other fisheries, increased two fold over the previous year. Production in 1962 amounted to 4,315 tons compared to 2,337 tons produced in 1961.

Inland Water Fishery

During 1962, landings from inland water areas totalled 84,000 metric tons of fish and shellfish products, an increase of 4% above 1961 production. The gain was ascribed primarilly to a good harvest of fresh water clams from the Tone River estuary, Chiba Prefecture. Clam production in 1962 totalled 28,776 metric tons compared with the catch of 26,775 metric tons in 1961.

Inland Fish Culture

The total yield of fish culture products in 1962 was 20,000 metric tons, an increase of approximately 11% over the previous year. Carp, eel and rainbow trout are the most important species of fish reared from the standpoint of food production. The combined production of these three species in 1962 was 17,421 metric tons making up 87 percent of the total yield of all fish culture products during the year. The output of rainbow trout increased from 3,023 metric tons in 1961 to 3,505 metric tons in 1962; carp from 5,142 to 6,344 metric tons; and eel from 7,105 to 7,572 metric tons.

Comparing Japan's catch of major species, the following percentage increases in 1962 over 1961 were: Alaska pollack 29%, Pacific mackerel 21%, tuna and tuna-like fisher 6%, squid 34%, red sea bream 17%, cod 13%, saury 2%, short neck clams 6%, king crab 22%, oysters 18%, abalone and topshell 12%, octopus 16%, shrimp 14%, and seaweed 18%. On the other hand, there was a decline in landings of salmon 24%, bottom fish 15%, croakers 11%, Atka mackerel 34%, Jack mackerel 4%, herring 69%, sardines 15%, anchovy 5%, and sand lance 30%

Whaling

In 1962, Japan's whalers operating in the Antarctic, Bering Sea and coast waters caught 22,237 whales of which 14,351 were taken in the Antarctic; 4,040 from the north Pacific; and 3,846 from coastal areas of Japan.

During the 1961/1962 Antarctic season Japan's seven whaling fleets took 489 blue whales, 11,855 fin whales, 2 humpback whales, and 941 sei whales. In addition to the baleen whale catch the fleets bagged 1,064 sperm whales.

In 1962 the catch of whales in the north Pacific totalled 4,040, of which 48 were blue whales, 1,166 fins, 17 humpbacks, 260 seis, and 2,549 sperms. This was an increase of 705 whales (21%) compared with the catch in 1961. Declines in landings of blue and fin whales were offset by substantial increases in the catch of sei and sperm whales.

Coastal whalers operating from land stations in Japan landed 3,846 head in 1962. Of this catch, 5 were blue whales, 39 fin whales, 1 humpback whale, 1,229 sei whales, 1,685 sperm whales, 238 mink whales, 145 bottlenose whales, 87 pilot whales, 47 killer whales, and 377 of other species. The catch of commercially important blue, fin, humpback, sei and sperm whales in 1962 totals 2,959 which compared favorably with landings of 2,961 head in 1961

JAPAN'S LANDINGS OF FISH AND FISHERIES PRODUCTS BY MAJOR TYPE FISHERIES, 1962 AND 1961 1/

(thousands of metric tons)

Type of Fishery	1962	1961
Otter trawl, mothership - North Pacific	6	4
Otter trawl, high seas - excluding North Pacific	52	33
Otter trawl, South China Sea	0 2/	----
Trawl, large, mothership - North Pacific	510	622
Trawl, carrier type vessel	24	16
Trawl, large - South China Sea	0 2/	1
Salmon fishery, mothership	44	53
Crab fishery, mothership	25	21
Longline, tuna - overseas based ports	25	17
Longline, tuna, mothership - Pacific and Indian Oceans	64	33
Longline, tuna - Atlantic	60	82
Otter trawl - west of 130° East	15	18
Trawl, large - west of 130° East	314	356
Longline, tuna - Japan based	386	351
Pole and line, skipjack	188	167
Trawl, one and two boat - East of 130° East	629	648
Purse seine	970	957
Dip net, stick-held saury	475	461
Gill net, salmon	42	75
Pole and line, Pacific mackerel	178	155
Trawl, small sail	200	204
Angling, squid	533	377
Seine, beach and boat	123	112
Set net, large	128	150
Set net, small	82	83
Shellfish and seaweed collection	529	460
Other fisheries	784	820
Laver culture (shallow seas)	154	147
Oyster Culture (shallow seas)	203	172
Pearl culture (shallow seas)	68 (tons)	80 (tons)
Fish culture (shallow seas)	4,315 (tons)	2,033 (tons)
Other culture (shallow seas)	287 (tons)	111 (tons)
Inland water fishery	84	81
Fish culture (inland waters)	20	18
Total	6,864	6,710

1/Source: Statistics and Survey Division, Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry
2/Less than 1,000 metric tons

JAPAN'S CATCH OF FISH AND FISHERIES PRODUCTS BY MAJOR SPECIES, 1962 AND 1961

(thousands of metric tons)

Species	1962	1961
Skipjack tuna	170	144
Bluefin tuna	46	70
Albacore tuna	104	87
Bigeye tuna	126	113
Yellowfin tuna	158	148
Striped marlin	19	11
Broadbill swordfish	20	17
Black & white marlin	36	28
Shark	69	65
Salmon	123	162
Flatfish (sole and flounders)	501	590
Croakers	102	115
Red sea bream	27	23
Yellow sea bream	10	10
Cod	76	67
Alaska pollack	452	353
Atka mackerel	122	185
Saury	483	473
Jack mackerel	520	542
Pacific mackerel	408	337
Yellowtail	52	51
Herring	30	97
Sardine	108	127
Round herring	27	26
Anchovy	349	366
Sand lance	70	108
Carp	18	17
Ayu	9	7
Eel	10	11
Other fish	724	717

(Continued)

Species	1962	1961
Abalone and topshell	9	8
Hard clams	11	12
Shortneck clams	114	108
Hen clams	5	5
Scallops	10	10
Oysters	203	172
Pearls	68 (tons)	80 (tons)
White lip shell	0	362
Other shellfish	155	179
Squid	612	455
Octopus	65	56
Shrimp	84	74
King crab	33	27
Other marine animals	75	85
Marine mammals	1	2
Laminaria (seaweed)	179	121
Wakame (seaweed)	62	58
Gelidium	10	12
Laver	154	147
Other seaweed	94	85
Total	6,864	6,710

JAPAN'S WHALE CATCH BY SPECIES, 1962 and 1961

(numbers of whale)

Species	1962	1961
Blue	542	1,217
Fin	13,060	10,435
Humpback	20	224
Sei	2,430	2,559
Sperm	5,298	5,453
Mink	238	332
Bottlenose	145	133
Pilot	80	133
Killer	47	54
Others	377	305
Total	22,237	20,845

JAPAN'S WHALE CATCH BY AREA AND SPECIES, 1962 AND 1961

(numbers of whale)

Area	Species	1962	1961
Antarctic	Blue	489	1,144
	Fin	11,855	8,912
	Humpback	2	211
	Sei	941	1,773
	Sperm	1,064	1,552
Total		14,351	13,592
North Pacific	Blue	48	70
	Fin	1,166	1,452
	Humpback	17	9
	Sei	260	4
	Sperm	2,549	1,800
Total		4,040	3,335
Coastal	Blue	5	3
	Fin	39	71
	Humpback	1	4
	Sei	1,229	782
	Sperm	1,685	2,101
	Mink	238	322
	Bottlenose	145	133
	Pilot	80	133
	Killer	47	54
	Others	377	305
Total		3,846	3,918
GRAND TOTAL		22,237	20,845

33276